H.R. Willoughby

"The Rockefeller McCormick Manuscript and What Came of It"

A Bibliographical Record

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PREFACE

A shelf full of books in the Bel Air library of Professor Edgar J. Goodspeed suggested this bibliography and its title. The books were the major manuscript publications of the New Testament Department in the University of Chicago during the last decade and more. "There," said Professor Goodspeed, "you see the Rockefeller McCormick Manuscript and what came of it!"

The three colleagues who were privileged to participate in the publication of Codex 2400 were quite sure from the outset of the worthwnileness of their collaborative task. What has since astonished them has been the amount of public attention and the quality of scholarly consideration that have been focused on the manuscript itself. The former is probably explained by the superb artistry of the codex in its covers and miniatures, the association of it with Michael VIII Paleologus and the imperial library of Byzantium, and its adventurous history in late-medieval and modern times. It has merited scholarly attention for its distinguished family connections, its finely characterized script, its disparate text; and also for the style, iconography, and chromatics of its miniatures. Its illustration cycle for the Book of Acts still remains singular. Few manuscripts of the Greek New Testament that have appeared in recent decades have stimulated anything like the amount of serious and concentrated study that can be credited to the influence of Codex 2400. To demonstrate the values involved in such manuscript work is the main purpose of issuing this bibliography.

It is a special pleasure to include in the bibliography a double page of Jaffé color facsimiles, reproducing two folios from the manuscript itself. Through the courtesy of the College Art Association of America we are enabled to do this. Mr. Harold H. Platz, fellow in the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, assisted in the compilation of the early stages of this bibliography.

H. R. W.

The Hermitage
Disciples Divinity House
Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle

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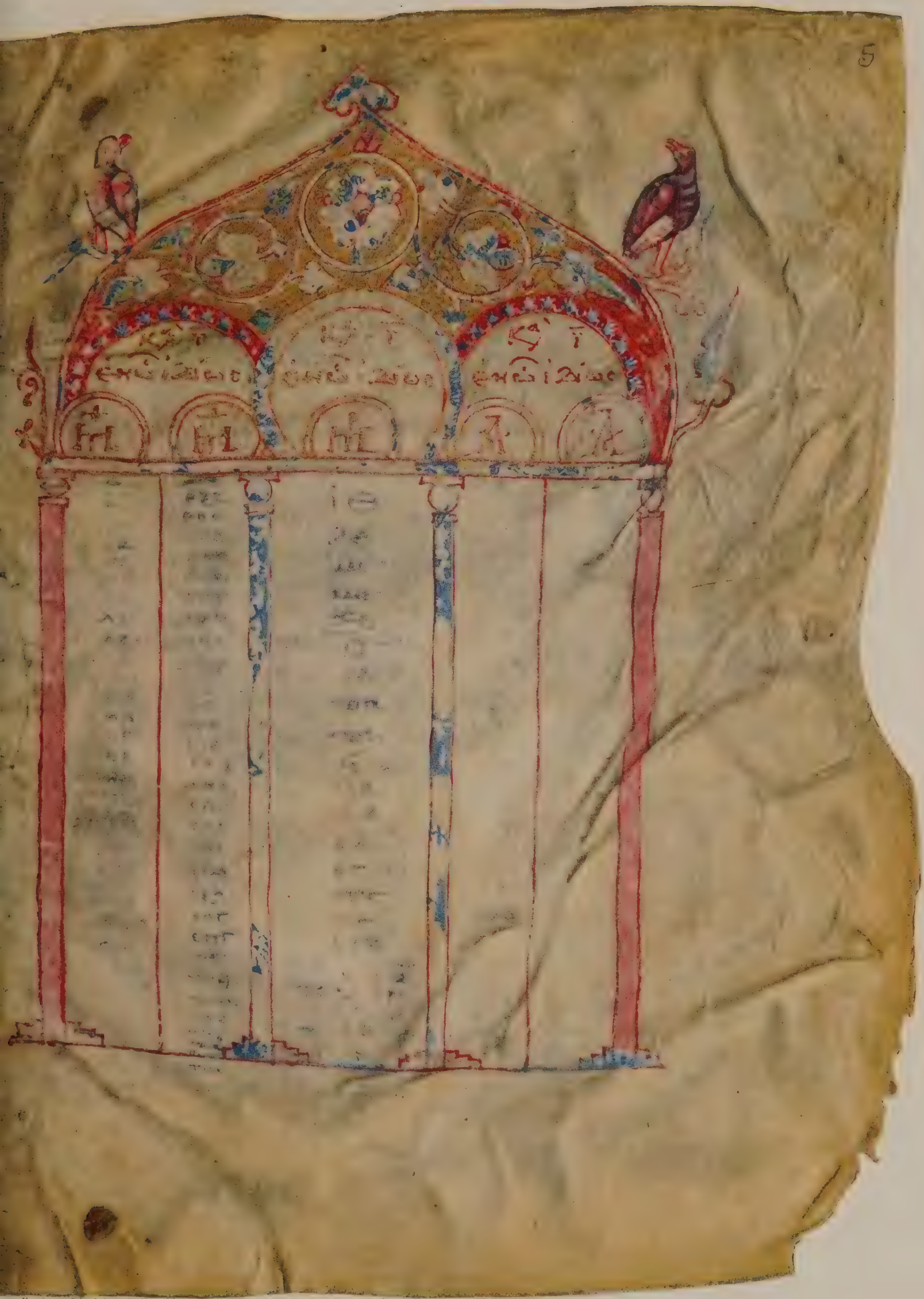
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